

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2005 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Santome.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Lee, Rische, Santome, Tsao, Ulrich, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Transportation Planning Associate Crump,
Deputy City Attorney Sullivan,
Deputy City Attorney Caceres, and
Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda.

4. **AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 1, 2005**

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved for the approval of the August 1, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

7. **ORALS**

Transportation Manager Semaan requested that this item be considered out of order to allow residents to voice concerns regarding parking near Hawthorne Boulevard and 180th Street.

Rick Wagner, West 180th Street, related his understanding that at the last Planning Commission meeting Car Max received approval for a Conditional Use Permit for the entire lot formerly occupied by Circuit City on Hawthorne Boulevard. He expressed concern that the approximately 80 vehicles parked in the lot by apartment

dwellers would be forced onto neighboring streets once development begins. He requested that the Commission consider possible solutions to alleviate future parking problems.

Robert Rudolf, Regina Avenue, requested that attention be given to the neighborhood regarding the overflow cars formerly allowed to park in the back of the Circuit City parking lot. He expressed concern that once development of Car Max begins there will be no place for these cars to park, that it will be difficult to find available parking to go to the park at the end of Regina Avenue, and there will be increased pedestrian flow crossing Hawthorne Boulevard from the City of Redondo Beach. He contended that the City should consider parking impacts before approving projects and distributed photographs of areas in other parts of the City where there is insufficient parking space available.

Helen Doyle, Yukon Avenue, inquired how the City planned to use the \$10,000 offered by Car Max to help mitigate the parking problem. She requested that the item be placed on the agenda for a future Traffic Commission meeting.

Robert Rudolf, Regina Avenue, stated that there were other traffic related items that he would also like the Commission to hear.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the Commission could direct staff to bring the item back at a later date. He provided background information regarding the Circuit City site, noting the large parking area behind the building with access from 180th Street that was utilized by nearby residents. He advised that the Car Max development planned to utilize the entire lot and that there was some discussion about offering \$10,000 for the City to conduct a parking study in the neighborhood. He advised that the City has not accepted the offer because a study would be of little value as parking was being utilized by residents only. He noted that this item was more of a land development issue and not a traffic driven case.

Commissioner Santome asserted that it would not be fair to make Car Max provide parking for residents as part of a Conditional Use Permit and noted the fact that this was not a traffic circulation issue.

A straw vote to bring the issue back to the Traffic Commission was as taken and reflected no action to be taken. AYES: Commissioners Lee, Ulrich, and Rische; NOES: Commissioners Lewis, Tsao, and Santome.

Commissioner Ulrich thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting.

Transportation Manager Semaan encouraged residents to provide staff with written documentation for future consideration.

Commissioner Rische suggested that the City should accept the offer from Car Max to study traffic effects in the area.

6a. **CONSIDERATION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES(RV'S), TRAILERS, AND OVERSIZED VEHICLES(OV'S) ON PUBLIC STREETS**

Transportation Manager Semaan recommended that the Commission review the staff report and compiled suggestions from the August 1, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting and the revised draft ordinance regarding the parking of recreational vehicles, trailers, and oversized vehicles on public streets.

Transportation Planning Associate Crump provided background and analysis of the consideration to restrict parking of recreational vehicles (RV's), trailers, and oversized vehicles (OV's) on public streets included in the material of record. She discussed input received from residents and Commissioners at six public meetings, the last one being the Traffic Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on August 1, 2005. She advised that at that meeting the Traffic Commission voted 4-1 for staff to move forward with preparation of an ordinance to place certain restrictions on the parking of RV's, trailers, and OV's on City streets. She summarized the key points of the draft ordinance that includes the requirement for existing owners to register their oversized vehicles with the City by December 29, 2006 in order to be "grandfathered." Beginning January 2, 2007, any resident who acquires an RV, trailer, or OV must register their vehicle and would also be subject to the permit system detailed in the draft ordinance.

She requested direction from the Commission regarding out-of-town visitors traveling with oversized vehicles hosted by "grandfathered" City residents.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan provided details of the draft ordinance, noting the addition of a restriction in Section 61.12.070 of running power cords, cables, or hoses across sidewalks to an OV parked on a public street. He further noted that use of fraudulent parking permits or permit numbers was addressed in 61.12.140(b). He reiterated that current City ordinances prohibit living in an RV on a public street for more than 12 hours in a 30-day period. Responding to Commissioner Santome, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan stated that they could not be suspended above sidewalks either.

Transportation Manager Semaan distributed supplemental material consisting of additional correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared.

In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, he clarified that the Commission could concur with the material as presented or provide guidance on modifications or changes to it before it is forwarded to City Council for consideration.

Commissioner Santome suggested that if a resident is "grandfathered" and has an out-of-town visitor with an RV that the visitor be allowed to park for up to 14 consecutive days or a total of 30 days per calendar year and be required to follow the permit procedure outlined in the draft ordinance.

From 7:33 p.m. to 8:10 p.m., Chairperson Lewis welcomed public input.

Bob Nordhoff, Eriel Avenue, stated that he was against any restrictions that did not apply to everybody and pointed out that cars parked on public streets also present safety hazards.

Karen Galvin, Iris Avenue, inquired about regulations regarding detached trailers.

Charles Hickey, Arvada Street, commended staff for their efforts in preparing the draft ordinance and pointed out a typographical error in Section 61.12.050(a). He suggested that the word "authorized" in Section 61.12.050(b)(5) be changed to stronger language to guarantee that there will be a Vehicle Parking Permit call-in processing system.

Janet Payne, Engracia Avenue, stated that there was no consistency in the draft ordinance regarding parking permits and that Section 61.12.050 addressed registration of vehicles and not issuance of permits. She stated that it was fiscally irresponsible not to charge a fee for registration.

When she questioned why she could only park her vehicle for 72 hours for loading and unloading purposes, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan clarified that there were no restrictions if she was registered and "grandfathered" in before December 29, 2006.

Mike McGinnis, Post Avenue, expressed concern that residents who have out-of-town visitors with RV's will not know about the permit procedure.

Charles Deemer, Talisman Street, inquired if trucks with campers fall under the same category as RV's, how much the RV issue has cost the City, and the definition of an oversized vehicle. He stated that he was against paying any fees for registration or permits.

Steve Grumbles, 164th Street, commented that he owns a house outside the City and that his RV is registered with that address.

Mike Richardson, Watson Avenue, asked staff to consider additional restrictions for RV owners who "spite" park and continually neglect the current 72-hour parking restriction.

Dennis Frandsen, Elm Avenue, stated that the draft ordinance would punish residents who follow the law. He suggested that vehicles that have received one citation be subject to impound and fine if they are found in the same vicinity again.

Thomas Carsten, West 226th Street, suggested that implementation of street sweeping would force RV owners to abide by the 72-hour parking restriction.

Harvey Hetrick, Cranbrook Avenue, stated that he has requested and has still not received any legal documentation proving that RV's are dangerous.

John White, Del Amo Boulevard, stated that people arbitrarily complain about parked RV's when they do not like someone and that everyone should try to get along.

Dee Hardison, West 236th Street, expressed support for Section 61.12.040 allowing RV owners to park on public streets adjacent to their residence and stated that there was value to registering oversized vehicles.

Earl Clark, 245th Street, requested clarification regarding what the "grandfathering" clause has in relation to the current 72-hour parking limit.

Pam Popovich, Camino del Campo, asked if it would be incumbent on neighbors to complain in order to expect enforcement of the ordinance.

Tom Perkoski, Pruitt Drive, asked if Section 61.12.070 regarding power cords was an existing or new regulation.

Andrew Pedorchek, Portabello Drive, stated that the draft ordinance was well written and addressed most of the issues, but expressed concern about “spite” parkers.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded to questions raised by members of the audience. He clarified that “grandfathered” vehicles would be subject to all current parking restrictions but would not be subject to the limited number of permits that owners registered after January 1, 2007 would be.

He acknowledged that there were automobiles and other vehicles parked on City streets in excess of the 72-hour rule, but that the issue that was being addressed in this ordinance was RV’s, trailers, and OV’s.

He advised that the City was not required to provide specific data to substantiate changing regulations but that resident, City Council, and Traffic Commission concerns have been entered into the record.

He advised that detached trailers would be identified the same as RV’s and OV’s as far as “grandfathering” and permit requirements.

He stated that, pending action on the City Council level, there would be a mass mailing to distribute information about the ordinance to all City residents.

He stated that dimensions of RV’s, trailers, and oversized vehicles were identified in the ordinance itself and clarified that it was determined that there would not be a fee for registration or permits.

At Commissioner Rische’s request, he clarified the registration and permit process for “grandfathered” vehicles and those acquired after January 2007. He described the permanent decals and temporary cardboard permits that were being considered as well as the two data bases that would be used by the Torrance Police Department.

Referring to Section 61.12.020 regarding detached trailers, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan stated that it was an oversight and would be corrected to reflect that detached trailers would be treated the same as OV’s.

Commissioner Tsao requested that the Police Department provide information about how the ordinance would be enforced. He stressed the importance of notifying all residents of the City about the new ordinance.

Lieutenant Matsuda stated that the proposed ordinance would simplify enforcement because an OV would be either a permitted vehicle or not and that there would be a definite violation to enforce.

Transportation Manager Semaan clarified that visitors with RV's would be allowed 14 permitted parking days per year per vehicle and that this language would be incorporated into the draft ordinance.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to concur with staff recommendation to accept the revised draft ordinance regarding the parking of recreational vehicles, trailers, and oversized vehicles on public streets, and to forward it to City Council for their consideration. Chairperson Lewis seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. **ORALS**

Commissioner Santome thanked staff and the Torrance Police Department for a superlative job in meeting both sides of a touchy issue.

Transportation Manager Semaan reminded Commissioners to R.S.V.P. for the City Traffic Engineers Association's 2005 Traffic Commissioners Workshop on November 5, 2005 at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona.

Commissioner Ulrich thanked residents and staff for their time and input.

Commissioner Lee commended staff for their efforts.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:33 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to November 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted December 5, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
